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Application No: 10/558,440

Amendment A

Reply to Office Action Dated 05/22/2007

Attorney Docket No: 3926.231

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces any earlier listing:

1-26. (canceled).

27. (currently amended) A jack bracket (12) for a motor vehicle, said jack bracket adapted to being fixed to a sill of the motor vehicle via flanges, said jack bracket having an opening (16) adapted for receiving a jack receiving element, wherein said bracket (12) comprising: is formed from

a hollow profiled section (6) having a first end (7) proximate to the sill and a second end (10) remote from the sill ends and being in the form of a piece of tube, wall section at said first end (7) being notched or cut out to form wall parts (9) spaced apart from one another by gaps (8), a circular circumferential region (11) being formed at said second end (10), and

a cover (13) secured to said circular circumferential region (11) and covering that said second end (10) of the hollow profiled section (6) which is remote from the sill and having the opening (16) for receiving the jack receiving element.

wherein the hollow profiled section (6) is a hydroformed part.

28. (currently amended) The jack bracket as claimed in claim 27, wherein the flanges are formed from said wall parts (9) of the hollow profiled section (6).

29. (currently amended) The jack bracket as claimed in claim 27, wherein the cover (13) has a sleeve-like extension, by means of which the cover (13) is fitted onto said circular circumferential region (11) of the hollow profiled section (6).

30. (currently amended) The jack bracket as claimed in claim 27, wherein the cover (13) has

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a base region (17) which is substantially planar in form.

31. (currently amended) The ~~jack~~ bracket as claimed in claim 27, wherein the cover (13), in the installed position of the ~~jack~~ bracket (12) on the motor vehicle (30), is oriented parallel to the roadway over the entire base region (17).
32. (currently amended) The ~~jack~~ bracket as claimed in claim 30, wherein the cover (13) has beads (18) in the base region (17).
33. (previously presented) The ~~jack~~ bracket as claimed in claim 27, wherein the cover (13) has positioning holes (19) for a mounting device in the base region (17).
34. (currently amended) The ~~jack~~ bracket as claimed in claim 33, wherein the positioning holes (19) are of different sizes.
35. (currently amended) The ~~jack~~ bracket as claimed in claim 27, wherein the ~~central~~ opening (16) in the cover (13) is delimited by a collar (20) set toward the hollow profiled section (6).
36. (currently amended) The ~~jack~~ bracket as claimed in claim 27, wherein the receiving element is formed by a stopper (21), which ~~preferably~~ consists of plastic.
37. (currently amended) The ~~jack~~ bracket as claimed in claim 36, wherein the stopper (21), on its side (22) facing the cover, has at least one clip element (23) which interacts in a connecting manner with the ~~central~~ opening (16) in the cover (13).
38. (currently amended) The ~~jack~~ bracket as claimed in claim 36, wherein the ~~a~~ circumferential outer side (24) of the stopper (21), in the securing position, ends is one of

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flush with the a cylindrical edge (15) of the cover (13) or is set back therefrom.

39. (currently amended) The ~~jack~~ bracket as claimed in claim 36, wherein ~~that~~ an end side (25) of the stopper (21) which is remote from the cover is pre-offset downward with respect to surrounding components, which are critical in terms of damage, of the motor vehicle (30).
40. (currently amended) The ~~jack~~ bracket as claimed in claim 27, wherein the contour of the wall parts (9), which form connecting flanges, of the hollow profiled section (6) and the contour of the sill (26) are designed to be of corresponding shape to one another in the attachment region of the bracket (12).
41. (cancelled).
42. (currently amended) The ~~jack~~ bracket as claimed in claim 27, wherein the bracket (12) is located outside the a component separation between a sill panel (27) and an underbody panel (28) of the motor vehicle (30), the bracket (12) with the receiving element (21) projecting through an opening (44) in the underbody panel (28).
43. (withdrawn – currently amended) A process for producing a ~~jack~~ bracket of a motor vehicle which is adapted to being fixed to a sill of the motor vehicle by flanges and has an opening (16) for receiving a ~~jack~~ receiving element (21), comprising, in any order:
forming a hollow profiled section (6) from a tubular blank (1), which is expanded by means of hydroforming, the hydroforming pressure forming at least two expanded sections (2), which are axially spaced apart from one another, from the blank (1), which sections (2) are then divided into separate hollow profiled sections (6) by a dividing process, wherein the hollow profiled section (6) is formed with a first end (7) proximate to the sill and a second end (10) remote from the sill, wall section at the first end (7) are

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notched or cut out to form wall parts (9) spaced apart from one another by gaps (8), and a circular circumferential region (11) is formed at the second end (10),

assembling the bracket (12) from ~~[[a]]~~ the hollow profiled section (6) and a cover (13) which covers the hollow profiled section (6) at ~~one~~ the second end, and

forming the opening (16) in the cover (13), and

~~shaping the hollow profiled section (6) from a tubular blank (1), which is expanded by means of hydroforming, the hydroforming pressure forming at least two expanded sections (2), which are axially spaced apart from one another, from the blank (1), which sections (2) are then divided into separate hollow profiled sections (6) by a dividing process.~~

44. (withdrawn – currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 43, wherein the blank (1), following the shaping operation, is divided between the expanded sections (2), transversely with respect to ~~the~~ a longitudinal axis (5) of the blank, to form individual blank sections, and then the individual blank sections are divided approximately in the middle, by a further dividing process taking place transversely with respect to the axial extent of the blank section, into in each case two hollow profiled sections (6).
45. (withdrawn – currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 43, wherein ~~the~~ unexpanded ends (4) of the blank (1) are cut off after the shaping operation.
46. (withdrawn – currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 43, wherein ~~wall sections are notched or cut out at that end (7) of the hollow profiled section (6) which is remote from the cover, and wherein~~ at least some (9a) of the wall parts (9), which are spaced apart from one another by the gap (8) ~~that is formed~~ and form residual flanges, ~~[[is]]~~ are angled off.
47. (withdrawn – currently amended) The process as claimed in claim ~~[[46]]~~ 43, wherein the
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notching takes place during or following the hydroforming of the hollow profiled section (6), with the hydroforming pressure still present in the hydroforming tool.

48. (withdrawn – currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 43, wherein a sheet-metal section is deep-drawn to form a ~~eap-like~~ the cover (13), and wherein the cover (13) is ~~preferably~~ centrally perforated by stamping, ~~in particular stamped~~.
49. (withdrawn – currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 48, wherein the ~~eap-like~~ cover (13) is fitted onto the hollow profiled section (6) and is then joined to the hollow profiled section (6), ~~preferably~~ by welding, in the region of ~~the~~ an end face (14) of ~~its~~ a cylindrical edge (15) of the cover (13).

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